



Proudly serving the United States servicemembers of Joint Task Force-Bravo

The Iguana



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Photos by Spc. Jon Christoffersen

First Lt. Emily Dierhka, J-3 Force Protection, applies camouflage face paint prior to the Air Force Combat Dining-In Dec. 7.

Dining-in

By Spc. Jon Christoffersen
Iguana Editor

Camouflage paint on their faces, battle dress uniforms donned, helmets securely fastened under their chins, load-bearing equipment around their waists and over their shoulders, wet-weather gear at the ready, and armed with the latest technology in water guns.

The mixture of military uniforms and high-tech water delivery weapons, was the uniform for a lot of participants of the Air Force Forces Combat Dining-In. But no combat uniform would be complete without grenades, water grenades.

The tradition of formal dinners have been a part of military since pre-Christian Roman times. The tradition continued throughout history, including King Arthur's knights of the round table. The dining-in began after the origination

See Dining-in, Page 3

Marine MP battalion joins JSF team

By 1st Lt. Richard Komurek
Public Affairs Director

Joint Task Force-Bravo increased its level of jointness recently as more than 30 Marines from the 2nd Military Police Battalion, 2nd Force Service Support Group, Camp Lejeune, N.C. arrived to Soto Cano at the end of November to replace outgoing Army soldiers.

The Marines, assigned to Soto Cano for a six-month rotation just like their Army comrades, joined the Air Force members who are currently serving a one-year tour here as members of the Joint Security Force. The latest arrival of the Marines marks their first return to Honduras since their last JSF rotation ended in November 2000.

Though this isn't the first time Marine MP's have served at Soto Cano, it does mark a number of firsts for this latest group that has arrived.

"The Marines now assigned to JSF are the first to deploy since they stood up as the 2nd MP Battalion. Because it's their first deployment they've received a lot of attention from the higher headquarters and a lot of motivation to be representative of the very best that the Marines can offer to JTF-Bravo," Maj. Leonard Grassley, Joint Security Forces commander said. "From the time they first hit the ground every one of the Marines has held their head high and has worked hard to get up to speed on how we accomplish the mission here."

Not only is Soto Cano the 2nd MP Battalion's first deployment, but they are also the first Marine MP battalion to be formed since the days of Vietnam, said Marine 1st Lt. Frank Sanchez, JSF deputy commander. The battalion, which was formed on Oct. 1, is a test battalion that will operate on a two-year trial basis as a self sustained and contained expeditionary unit, said Sanchez. After standing up Oct. 1, the new battalion quickly found itself on the move and within one week the Marines received word they were heading off to Honduras with less than one month to prepare, he said.

"For the majority it's their first duty station after training and their first overseas and first joint experience," Sanchez said. "Being here allows us to gain experience with host nation coordination and in dealing with other services for operations."

Two facts that do not go unnoticed by the new MP's is that Soto Cano is a big change from Marine life at Camp Lejeune, and Honduras is a world away from the war being fought by Marines over in Afghanistan.



Photo by 1st Lt. Richard Komurek

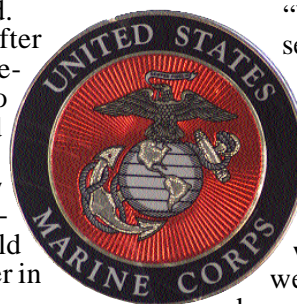
Lance Cpl. Paul Moore checks a vehicle as it comes through a check point. Moore is a member of the 2nd Military Police Battalion, 2nd Force Service Support Group, Camp Lejeune, N.C, which arrived here Nov. 26.

Though the arrival of the Marines here is a significant change for the members of the 2nd MP Battalion, it may go unnoticed by many in JTF-Bravo.

The quick and easy rotation of troops is a positive sign for both JSF and JTF-Bravo as a whole.

"While there will always be differences in how each service may execute a mission, the mission of JSF will remain the same," Grassley said. "We train to a common standard and our transition should be fairly transparent to most individuals on the installation," he said.

Though the switchover from Army to Marine personnel has largely been invisible, one thing that was not hard to see for many of the Marines was the welcoming environment of Soto Cano and of Honduras in general.



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MWR has holiday activities, Page 5

Is Soto Cano water safe to drink, Page 5

Three months after, Rumsfeld vows victims of Sept. 11 will not be forgotten

By Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen Rhem
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, — Exactly three months after a hijacked plane crashed into the Pentagon, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld stood in front of the damaged military headquarters and vowed that America will not forget those killed in the attack.

"We will remember their lives," Rumsfeld told the small crowd who braved the rain and mud to mark the moment the terrorists struck. "We will retell their stories again and again so that neither the nation nor the world ever forgets."

"Their deaths were a clarion call to our nation," Joint Chiefs Chairman Air Force Gen. Richard Myers said during the ceremony. "A call to once again confront the enemies of freedom, a call to once again join with friends and allies to preserve our basic values, and a call to stand united."

Rumsfeld said that before Sept. 11 Americans were wondering where all the heroes were. Nobody wonders

any more. "Today, all can see that the spirit of our nation is strong. And the heroes? We don't have to look far to find them," he said. "On Sept. 11 they were here and in New York, pulling friends and strangers out of the fire and out of the rubble."

"And in the skies over Pennsylvania, they showed those who believed Americans would not fight back that they were 'ready to roll.'"

American forces in Afghanistan are teaching Al Qaeda terrorists lessons they did not learn in Osama bin Laden's training camps, the secretary said.

"They're teaching (the terrorists) and all enemies of freedom that, as President Ronald Reagan put it, 'No weapon in any arsenal in the world is as formidable as the will and the moral courage of free men and free women,'" Rumsfeld said.

He called the damaged building being rebuilt behind him a symbol of that will and courage, and added that it will be stronger and surer than before. The rebuilt Pentagon will be "a tribute to those heroes of today and all those heroes of yesterday who now sleep beneath the hills of Arlington Cemetery and on whose shoulders we are proud to stand," Rumsfeld said. He also said he believes the thousands of victims of the Sept. 11 attacks here, in New York and in Pennsylvania would be proud of how the nation has come together in the aftermath of the tragedy.

"If they could see how our country is united to preserve freedom from terror they'd be proud, proud of our unity, proud of our strength and proud of the determination to find, root out and deal with the evil of terrorism and those who seek to terrorize," Rumsfeld said. "And we will."



Photo courtesy of Army Link News

The Pentagon was lit up at night Sept. 13 during round-the-clock recovery efforts following the terrorist attacks which hit the Pentagon Sept. 11.



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Chaplain's Corner

The incarnation: why did Jesus become a man?

By Chaplain (Capt.) Earl Vanderhoff
JTF-Bravo Chaplain

The Bible everywhere teaches that God sent his Son into the world to save sinners; that he was born of a virgin woman and made under the law for our redemption; that he became man in order that he might die, and by death destroy the power of Satan.

Isn't it amazing that history records numerous prophecies about Jesus Christ, which are seen as having been fulfilled? The town of his birth (Bethlehem) is clearly prophesied. The exact amount paid for his betrayal. That he would be scourged and spit upon. He would be given gall and vinegar. He would die on a cross. That he would be resurrected. That he will come again in glory to judge the nations. At this time of the year, we ought to think about the prophecy that he would be born of a virgin. Why was this important?

Most people have enjoyed the performance of

Handle's Messiah, which is the prophecy of Isaiah put to music. Isaiah was a prophet who lived and worked in Jerusalem from about 750 to 700 B.C. This is a display of the miraculous power of God to reveal the events of history hundreds of years in advance. Do you recall the verses?

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government Will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Let's look at what Marry was told when this prophecy was fulfilled.

Luke 1:30-35 Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call his name Jesus. He will be

great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. And he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" (This means she was a virgin.) And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."

Let's look at how Matthew relays God's story to us. Matthew 1:18-23 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying,

See Chaplain, Page 7

Troop Spotlight

Chief Warrant Officer 5, James Wiggins

Age: 54

Hometown: Athens, Ala.

Unit: J-Staff

Section: J-4 Property Book Section

Duty Title: Property Book Officer

MOS/AFSC: 920 A Property Account Technician

Most significant accomplishment: Achieving the rank of Chief Warrant Officer

Goals: "While in Honduras, my goal is to improve property accountability"

Hobbies: Fishing and bowling

Favorite Book: Army regulation books

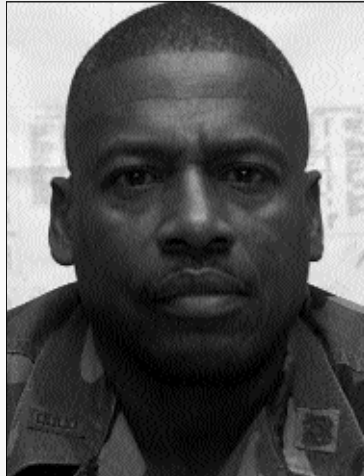
Favorite Movie: Old westerns

Favorite CD: "Good Times" by Lee Williams and the Spiritual QC's

Family: One daughter, Clemmie and four sons, James Jr., Antonio, Briant and Richard.

When did you enlist and why? Joined Army Nov. 1965. "Me and four or five of my friends from high school decided to join the Army."

Although Wiggins is the only one from the group who is still serving, he said that he sees them when he goes back home. Recently, Wiggins earned the distinction of being promoted to the rank of chief warrant officer 5. He said that he earned the rank by taking various assignments throughout his career.



Tis the season for fire safety

By Tech Sgt. Troy Wright
Soto Cano Fire Department

As the holidays approach, the Soto Cano Fire Department is urging all base residents to look for and eliminate potential dangers from holiday lights and decorations that could lead to fires and injuries. The use of holiday lighting is for seasonal times only, not for year-round use. Holiday lights may be displayed from Dec. 1 to Jan. 10.

We suggest following these tips to make your holiday a safe one.

Trees:

- Only artificial trees are authorized on Soto Cano Air Base. When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant". Although this label does not mean the tree won't catch fire, it does indicate the tree will resist burning and should extinguish quickly.

Lights:

- Indoors and outside, use only lights that have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory, which indicates conformance with safety standards.

- Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections, and

throw out damaged sets.

- Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord.

- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted.

- Before using lights outdoors, check labels to be sure they have been certified for outdoor use. Lights that are sold in the base exchange meet these standards.

- Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, hooch walls, or other firm supports to protect the lights from wind damage. Use only insulated staples to hold strings in place, not nails or tacks, or run strings of lights through hooks.

- Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave your room. The lights could short out and start a fire.

Decorations:

- Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree or decorate your living area or work place.

- The use of candles for decoration or any other use is prohibited.

Contact Tech Sgt. Wright or Senior Airman Chasey at ext. 4553/4343/4818 with any questions or concerns dealing with holiday safety concerns.

Dry season is here

By Staff Sgt. Tracy Roberts
AFFOR Weather

The dry season is officially here. The thunderstorms and heavy clouds from the rainy season have diminished and in their place, clear and sunny days will prevail.

With the transition from rain showers to sunny skies the atmosphere will get drier, averaging less than one inch of rain a month compared to five inches a month during the rainy season.

During the dry season, high temperatures will be in the mid 80s with near 90 as we move toward April. Extreme temperatures in the past have reached as high as 106 degrees in March. Low temperatures will range from the high 60's to a possible extreme minimum temperature of 52 during January through March. Winds will increase dramatically from the wet-season. Wind speed will average 12 mph with frequent gusts exceeding 20 mph.

With this information keep in mind that fires will start easier and spread faster, grass and vegetation will be tinder dry. Please take care and be safe when barbecuing and smoking outdoors.

Tips to help prevent food borne illness

By Maj. Nancy Saddler
Chief Preventive Medicine

It's the season when more people become ill from food borne bacteria, according to Susan Conley, Department of Agriculture Meat and Poultry Hotline director.

Conley said bacteria grow and multiply rapidly in the danger zone between 40 and 140 degrees Fahrenheit. "Food transported without an ice source or left out in the sun at a picnic won't stay safe for long," Conley added.

Anybody can contract a foodborne disease. Problems arise when cooks contaminate such things as potato salad because their hands were infected with bacteria from handling such things as raw meat poultry. The germs are transmitted while cutting vegetables for the salad.

Mayonnaise isn't the villain it was thought to be; the villain is the carbohydrates the mayonnaise is put in — potato, macaroni, tuna and pasta salads. These are good sources for the bacteria to grow. The acid in commercial mayonnaise — vinegar — helps retard bacterial growth. The following tips will protect everyone from contracting foodborne illnesses:

In the Kitchen

- Cleanliness is essential.
- Wash hands, the work area and all utensils before preparing food.
- Marinate foods in the refrigerator, not on the counter.
- Thaw frozen goods in the refrigerator, not on the counter; in a microwave or in cold water, change every 30 minutes.

Bacteria can multiply in the outer layers before inner layers are thawed.

- Avoid creamy or custard foods.

On the Road

- Always use an insulated cooler when traveling.
- Take along disposable washcloths.
- Keep the cooler in the shade when outside.
- Replenish the ice as needed.

- Include a cold source in the cooler-ice, ice packs, frozen ades or juices.

Heat and Eat

- Keep food cold until ready to cook on the grill; perishables, keep cold until serving.
- Cook food completely, no partial or pre-cooking.

- Cook thoroughly — meat and poultry should not be pink, juices should run clear, and fish should flake with a fork.

- Use a fresh plate each time for serving cooked food.

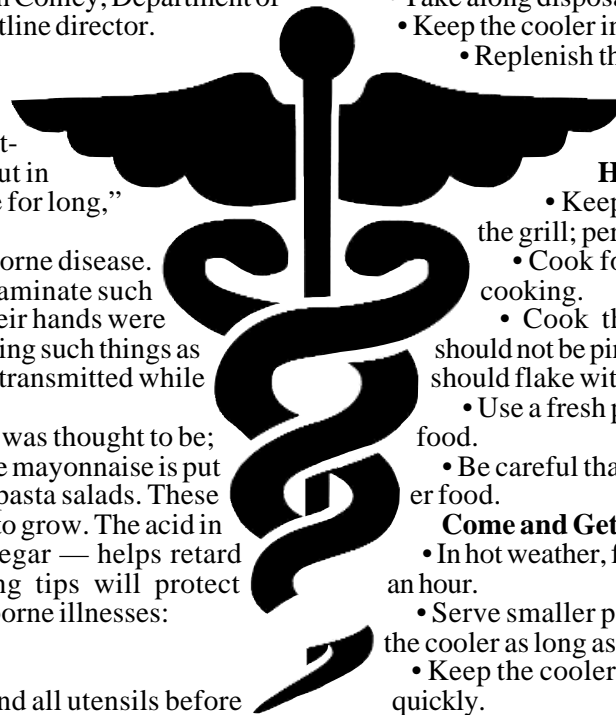
- Be careful that raw meat juices don't touch other food.

Come and Get It

- In hot weather, food should never sit out more than an hour.
- Serve smaller portions so unneeded food stays in the cooler as long as possible.
- Keep the cooler closed; remove and replace food quickly.

Repacking leftovers?

- If there is still ice in the cooler when you get home, the food is all right to serve.
- When in doubt; throw it out.



Dec. 14, 2001

JTF-Bravo



A CH-47 Chinook helicopter from 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment hovers with a water buffalo attached. Soldiers from Headquarters and Support Company practiced sling loading the water buffalo and a Humvee Dec. 4.

Soldiers rig it up during mission training



A team consisting of 1st Lt. Phillip Poteet, Headquarter and Support Company, Capt. Pablo Raggio, J-3 and Sgt. Christopher Moore, H and S Company, hook up the water buffalo to the helicopter.

Story and photos by Spc. Jon Christoffersen
Iguana Editor

Recently, soldiers from Support Platoon, Headquarters and Support Company, Army Forces, got to practice the skill of sling loading.

Sling loading is the process of rigging a piece of equipment with ropes to be lifted and transported by a helicopter.

According to 1st Lt. Joseph Ayoub, Support Platoon leader, the 20 soldiers involved in the training spent time before the actually training getting ready.

"(The soldiers) spent half a day on rigging procedures and rehearsals were done two weeks prior," Ay-

oub said. "We also conducted three hours of training the morning of the exercise."

He said that this training is vital for the platoon to be able to carry out their mission here.

"Part of Support Platoon's (Mission Essential Task Listing) is to be ready to rig and conduct any sling load requirement that may be necessary for the units in JTF-Bravo," Ayoub explained. He also said the platoon has had opportunities over the past year to sling load a variety of equipment for real missions. "In the past year Support Platoon had to sling load various equipment such as a water trailer, fuel blivets, fork lift truck, vehicles, a Honduran helicopter from a lake and a generator to various locations in Honduras or our (joint operational area)."

The platoon stays well trained on the skill of sling

loading because the need could present itself at any time.

"On average we train twice every three months of actually hooking with a helicopter," Ayoub said. "And twice a month on how to rig different kinds of equipment."

Ayoub added that the training was a success for more than one reason.

"The training was excellent since each hook up was a success and for many this was their first time actually conducting sling load training with a CH-47," Ayoub said.

The H and S Company Support Platoon has many jobs to perform on a regular basis to help keep the mission here moving forward, sling loading is only part of it. The platoon will continue to train on sling loading and all their tasking to ensure when needed, they can rise to any challenge.



The first team to practice, waits while the CH-47 Chinook helicopter is guided into position.

MWR office has many plans for holiday cheer

By Spc. Jon Christoffersen
Iguana Editor

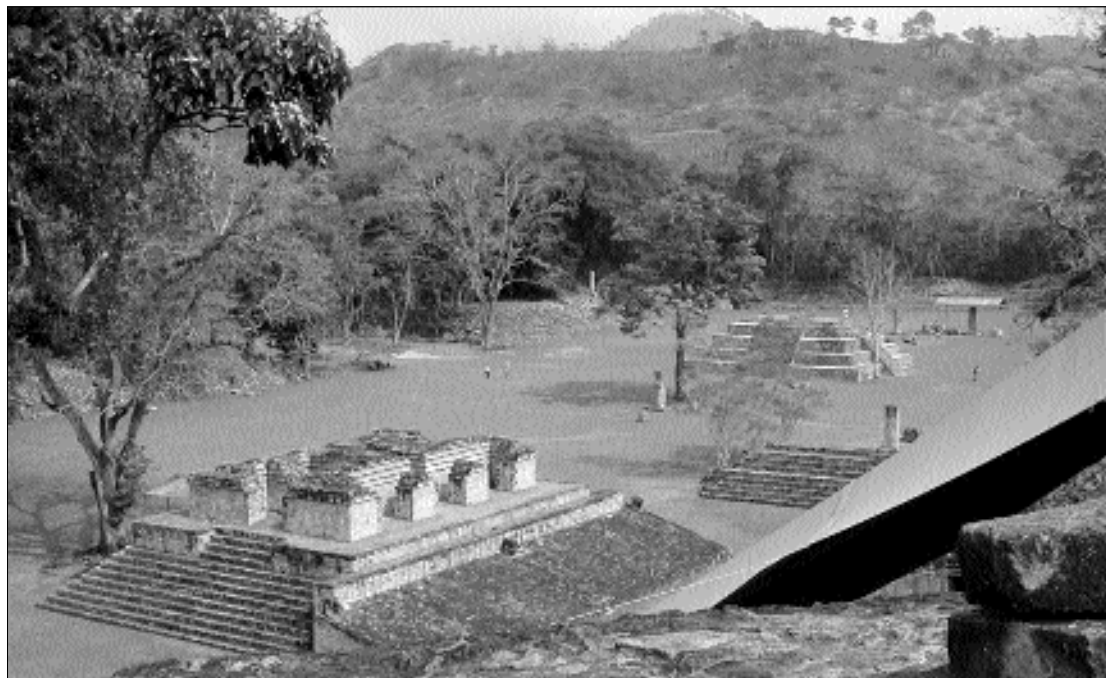
The holiday season is upon us with all its fun and tradition.

How do you plan on spending your extra holiday-induced free time? The Soto Cano Morale, Welfare and Recreation office has many options for servicemembers here to keep busy anytime of the year, but the holiday season means they offer even more leisure-time activities.

"If anyone here is looking for something to do, chances are we have something that will suit them," Robin Gonzalez, MWR manager said.

Dec. 17, the MWR Holiday Sports Program kicks off with the Icicle Tennis Tournament and a racquetball tournament. The tennis tournament runs from Dec. 17 — Dec. 21, interested participants can sign up in the recreation center. The racquetball tournament also begins at Dec. 17 and is scheduled to end Dec. 20.

A new event to Soto Cano, The Jingle Bell Games, will begin Dec. 18. According to Gonzalez, the games consist of 10 events ranging from a bike race to a tire



The Copan ruins is just one of the destinations MWR can take you to over the holidays.

flip.

"The finale event the teams will participate in is a Humvee push," Gonzalez said.

There are many other sporting events scheduled during the holidays. Call or visit the recreation office for in-

live entertainment.

If you find yourself sitting in your hooch on Dec. 23 with nothing to do, then you haven't looked into MWR. For more information about MWR holiday activities, contact Robin Gonzalez at ext. 4458.

formation about the events scheduled.

While servicemembers may put their bodies to the test at the different sporting events, others may be thinking of a relaxing weekend away from base and MWR has that covered also.

Copan Ruins, La Ceiba Beach, Lake Yojoa/waterfalls, Roatan Island, San Pedro Sula and Utila Island are some of the destinations for people looking to get away.

"We're not having many trips on Christmas day," Gonzalez said. "We realize it's a religious holiday and people will want to celebrate their own way."

The days leading up to Christmas are packed with trips and the days before New Year's are also busy.

Beginning at 8 p.m. on New Year's Eve, MWR is sponsoring a party at The Oasis. There will be raffles, door prizes, free food and

Soto Cano water is safe

By Sgt. Christopher Paye
Preventive Medicine

Water quality is a very common concern among soldiers while deployed overseas, especially while serving in a developing country. The following information should answer any questions you may have about the safety and quality of drinking the water on Soto Cano Air Base.

You may wonder if the water is safe to drink on base. All Army installations, to include overseas installations, are required to comply in accordance with Section 1447 of the Safe Drinking Water Act. This act requires installations adhere to the most stringent of standards for water quality.

Preventive medicine and DynCorp are responsible for monitoring the quality of the water on base. This is done by daily testing for pH, chlorine and temperature. Weekly testing for bacteriological contamination and monthly testing for periodic spot checks. We also test quarterly for volatile organic compounds and yearly for certain metals that are bad for people in drinking water. These tests ensure the safety and quality of the water on a continuous basis.

All water comes from the water treatment plant on post. This water is transported through pipes, which is also mon-

itored by the Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine. CHPPM conducts yearly certifications in order to ensure the quality of the water is maintained.

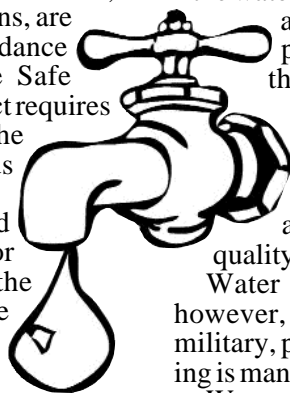
Precautionary measures soldiers need to take while on post are simple. If you suspect that there is a problem with the water, contact preventive medicine immediately. We will test the water and be able to inform the command if there is a problem within 24 hours.

JTF-Bravo members should note that the water on Soto Cano is "hard water" and it may have a cloudy appearance. As water passes thru the pipes it is oxygenated, causing the clarity of the water to have that cloudy appearance. This is very common even throughout the United States and is not a concern for the quality of the water.

Water coolers are also safe to use, however, like all equipment used in the military, proper maintenance and cleaning is mandatory.

Water off base comes from a different source and is not treated like the water on base. Therefore, the current guidance is to avoid drinking water off base for this reason; this is to include any beverage containing ice.

So the next time a servicemember draws a glass of water from the base water system they can rest assured by knowing that preventative medicine is working hard to ensure it is safe.



Tricare coverage while TDY/PCS

By 1st Lt. Kevin Glancy
MEDEL

You've been having a great time partying when you break an arm after falling off the table on which you were dancing. Will you be able to receive emergency medical care in Honduras? Will Tricare pay for your emergency medical care? Are you even enrolled in Tricare if you're stationed in Honduras?

United States active duty personnel who are stationed at here for more than 179 days need to enroll in Tricare South. Enroll in Tricare South when in-processing through MEDEL. You'll need to enroll yourself and dependents that have accompanied you to Honduras. Service members who are stationed here for 179 days or less do not need to enroll in Tricare South, though you're still entitled to treatment at MEDEL and Tricare will pay 100 percent of the cost of emergency medical treatment any where in Honduras.

Active-duty United States military personnel, both PCS and TDY, are entitled to urgent and emergency medical treatment when they are injured off base. Tricare will pay for the servicemember's medical treatment in full, upfront for any emergency treatment. However, you or your buddy,

whether PCS or TDY, need to first call the joint operations command and report your situation and then contact MEDEL as soon as possible. MEDEL will inform its patient administration division about your medical emergency so they can inform Tricare of your needs. Once Tricare is informed, it will be easier and speedier to get definitive medical treatment. We recommend you go to a private hospital when you need emergency medical attention off base. This also applies to dependents that need emergency treatment.

For routine care you must come to MEDEL first. MEDEL will arrange any additional care you may need at Tricare hospitals in Honduras.

If you have questions concerning your Tricare coverage there are several sources of information. Your first call should be to PAD at MEDEL, 4202. The toll free Tricare international number is 800-834-5514. The collect Tricare international number is: 215-701-2800. The points of contact for Tricare information at JTF-Bravo are Sgt. Corey Thomas, NCOIC PAD or Maria Bulnes-Castillo, Tricare specialist at ext. 4202. MEDEL's front desk number is ext. 4183 and is always staffed. Remember to inform the JOC first at ext. 4149 when you need to report your emergency.



Photo by Sgt. Joseph Chenelly

Enduring Freedom ...

An infantry company with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) moves across the desert in a file after the seizure of a forward operating base Nov. 26 as Operation Enduring Freedom begins. The Marines were moving into a security position.

Army starts 'stop-loss' for some specialties

WASHINGTON — An Army-wide "stop-loss" program announced Dec. 4, will keep soldiers in selected military occupational specialties from leaving active duty; mainly those in special operations and some in the aviation field.

Reginald J. Brown, assistant secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, approved the stop-loss measure Nov. 30.

This selective stop-loss program allows the Army to retain soldiers with critical skills on active duty beyond their date of separation for an open-ended period, officials said. They explained that soldiers affected by the order generally may not retire or leave the service as long as reserves are called to active duty or until relieved by the president, whichever is earlier.

The Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel estimates that this stop-loss program will stabilize 994 soldiers in the Army through the end of this fiscal year.

The enlisted specialties affected by this decision include soldiers with the following MOSs:

- MOS 18B, Special Forces Weapons Sergeant
- MOS 18C, Special Forces Engineer Sergeant
- MOS 18D, Special Forces Medical Sergeant
- MOS 18E, Special Forces Communications Sergeant
- MOS 18F, Special Forces Assistant Operations and Intelligence Sergeant
- MOS 18Z, Special Forces Senior Sergeant
- MOS 00Z (only those with Career Management Field 18 background)
- MOS 67U, CH-47 Helicopter Repairer (all skill levels).

The only commissioned officers affected by the stop-loss will be those in Career Management Field 18, Special Forces.

Warrant officers affected by the stop-loss include those in MOS 180A, Special Forces, and aviation warrant officers with the following specialties:

- 152C, OH-6 Scout Pilot
- 153D, UH-60 Pilot
- 153E, MH-60 Pilot
- 154C, CH-47D Pilot
- 154E, MH-47 Pilot

The stop-loss will also affect all warrant officers with the following Additional Skill Identifiers:

- K4, Special Operations Aviation
- K5, MH-60K Pilot
- K6, MH-47E Pilot

No new requests for separation will be accepted from soldiers in categories affected by the stop-loss, officials said. But they said some soldiers scheduled to separate prior to Jan. 15 may still be able to do so.

"The intent is to ensure the Army does not create hardship for soldiers who have begun transition leave," said Lt. Col. Robert Ortiz, chief of the Enlisted Professional Development Branch under DCSER.

"If you're a soldier who has already started transition leave and conducted final out-processing and cleared your installation or transition center, the Army will allow you to separate," Ortiz said.

(Editors note: Story courtesy of Army News Service)

TSP options require doing your homework

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — With the first open season for the Thrift Savings Plan for servicemembers currently under way, officials from the Air Force Personnel Center here said that military people need to understand the enrollment process, the five different funds, bonus and special pay options and more. The TSP is a retirement savings plan.

Open season is the period during which people are allowed to designate into which funds their contributions will go. Two more open seasons will take place during the upcoming year: May 15 to July 31 and Nov. 15, 2002 to Jan. 31, 2003.

Military people can initially contribute from 1 to 7 percent of their base pay in one percent increments. That percentage will increase to 10 percent by 2005. Military investors can also contribute all or part of bonuses or special pay up to the federal limits — \$11,000 in 2002.

Military people serving in tax-free combat zones are allowed up to \$40,000 in annual contributions.

The five funds are:

- The Government Securities Investment "G" Fund: This fixed income fund is known for being the safest investment of the five funds since the only way it will lose money is by some catastrophic event, such as if the federal government defaults on its loans. But with low risk usually comes a lower interest rate or rate of return.

- The Fixed Income Index Investment "F" Fund: The second fixed income fund, the F Fund, is higher risk than the G Fund, but is still considered a low-risk investment because it is spread over many generally stable investments.

Putting money into the F Fund is an investment in the Barclays U.S. Debt Index Fund, which tracks the bond market. A mathematical model determines the amount in which this fund distributes investor's money among the various types of U.S. government, mortgage-backed, corporate and foreign government sector securities.

- The Common Stock Index Investment "C" Fund: One of three common stock funds, the C Fund invests in 500 of the largest companies in the U.S. and is considered the least risky as stock investing goes. It follows the similar lines of the S&P 500.

- The International Stock Index Investment "I" Fund: This fund, along with the S Fund, are new funds to the TSP and have little historical background data.

The I fund provides coverage of stock markets in the 21 countries the Morgan Stanley Capital International stock index represents, which includes 915 companies, 23 industry groups within 10 economic sectors.

- The Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment "S" Fund: While the Standard & Poor's index tracks 500 of the largest companies, this fund does just the opposite. It tracks small- and medium-sized companies through the Wilshire 4500 index (the Wilshire 5000 minus the 500 companies in the S&P). Its medium is the Barclays Extended Market Index Fund which buys stocks of those companies within the index that have market values more than \$1 billion — more than 3,400 stocks at the end of 2000.

For more information about the funds, people can contact their local finance office.

(Editors note: Story courtesy of Air Force Print News.)

BRIEFS

Education materials

Military and civilian personnel are welcome to visit the learning resource center, Building H-56, education center, from 7:30 - 11:30 a.m. and 12 - 4 p.m. Monday - Friday, to review, study or take pretests for the over 118 national CLEP/DSST, ASVAB, AFAST, and many other Air Force, Army and Marine military tests on a walk-in basis. Familiarize yourself with the many opportunities in personal and career advancement through credit-by-examinations or military upgrade/career progression. You may photo copy and take home study material and/or unofficial pretests. Those going home for the holidays are advised that your spouses are welcome worldwide in the LRC for credit-by-exams. For more information call ext. 4495.

Do you need help?

Do you have bugs in your rugs, lights out at 7 p.m. only you want to stay up past 9, or are raindrops falling on your head — inside your hooch? You need to give the DynCorp Help Desk a call to remedy these issues. DynCorp Help Desk at ext. 4584 is available 24-hours each day to report the ailments of issues concerning plumbing, electrical, pest, and a host of other issues dealing with your hooch or the structures on base. If you call in a job, record the job order number for following up on the work. Many items are responded to immediately if they are classed as an emergency work order. Many jobs are completed within 24 hours. If you are not satisfied with the service, contact the BCE at ext. 4143.

Soto Cano theater

New movies are arriving regularly for your enjoyment at the Soto Cano Movie Theater. Show times for the theater are: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7:15 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, 4 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. For information about movies that are playing, and for the new TV channel lineup, visit the JTF-Bravo Intranet.

New medal

The new Cold War medal has been approved for everyone who was on active duty from Sept. 1945 to Dec. 26, 1991. Uniform shops have ordered and it should be in stock within the next couple of weeks.

Holiday phone calls

During the holiday weeks of Christmas and New Year's, the JTF-Bravo commander has directed that there be an increase in the maximum minutes each military member may spend on morale calls. The limit will be 180 minutes per week for the weeks of Dec. 23 - 29. Calling limit is still no more than 30 minutes per call per day.

A quiz to see if you need mommy for Christmas

By Master Sgt. Jeff Bohn
Public Affairs Superintendent

The holiday season can be tough on those that can't be near family and friends back home. We all face similar challenges, and part of the coping process is identifying when you are in need of a plane ticket home.

The following is a self-diagnostic test that can be used to determine if a trip home is in order, or if your personnel folks need to extend your tour just a little bit longer.

1. The practice of carrying toilet paper in your back pocket when going off base has become second nature.

2. You consistently go back for second helpings at the dining facility.

3. You schedule your week around attending the Thursday movie at the Theater — even though it has been on base for the past three weeks — and you have seen it twice.

4. You forsake your supervisor's work tasking so you can check the mail before the package pickup window closes at 5 p.m. — every day of the week.

5. You start answering your telephone, "Hola, como le va?"

6. You have a calendar in your hooch dedicated to recording each of your 30 minute phone calls back to the states.

7. Your E-Bay account is maxed out and they are now giving you frequent buyers points.

8. Gatorade bottles are purchased not just because they are your favorite sports drink.

9. You have purchased a self-inking stamp just to facilitate your sign-out roster procedures.

10. You have given names to at least five of the vagrant ducks on base or the two lizards in your hooch.

11. You leave work two-hours early when word

spreads of a newly arrived frozen food shipment at the BX.

12. You have determined the doctors were wrong when they said fiber is an essential part of the diet to keep you regular.

13. You consider that wood paneling and plexiglass windows are a stylish fad you will consider a must for your next home in the states.

14. You believe that bottled water, cable television, and free Internet access are worth going postal over if discussion threatens to take them away.

15. You think putting on any pair of pants and wearing your necklace with dog tags is considered dressing up for downtown.

16. Your hooch furniture is reminiscent of the fond times spent at your grandmother's house as a child.

17. You know all of the DFAC employees on a first name basis, but you don't know everyone in your duty section.

18. You look at the MWR travel calendar and can't find anything new to visit.

19. You start singing with the radio, all of the Latino songs you have memorized at the clubs in Comayagua and Tegucigalpa.

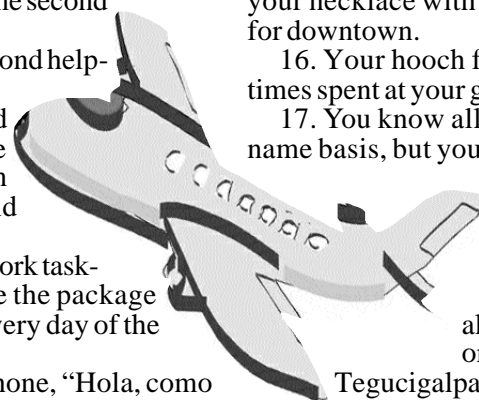
20. You think the water on base tastes exceptionally good.

21. You hum along with the Honduran national anthem during reveille and retreat every day as if it were a favorite show tune.

22. You can't imagine life without your hooch maid and begin to think of ways to smuggle her back to the states.

23. You consider opening a wicker and wood shop up at your next assignment as the primary consideration for base morale.

24. You consider drinking juice out of a plastic bag and punchaide as the main methods of hydration.



Chaplain

(Continued from Page 2)

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call his name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

Jesus was born of a woman like all other people; he is fully human, yet he was fully God and without sin. Otherwise he could not have been the Savior of the world. He had to be fully God in order for his sacrifice to have the infinite worth necessary to atone for the sin of mankind. He also had to be fully man in order to represent mankind and take the penalty of sin upon himself in man's behalf. It was man (every one of us) who sinned, who was under the curse, and who was condemned under

the wrath of God. Jesus therefore could not have substituted for sinful man on the cross—had he not taken upon himself "the likeness of men". (Philippians 2:7) He had to be God to have the power of savior, and he had to be man to have the position of substitute.

Philippians 2:5-11 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted him and given him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. The incarnation of the Son of God shows us the act of God's grace and love. In this unspeakable condescension of God, Jesus took upon himself perpetual union with human nature. John says, "In the

beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God. He was in the beginning with God ... And the word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

Whatever is true of God is true of God manifested in the flesh. That Christ, therefore, should assume the obligation to fulfill the conditions of the covenant made with Adam, to observe all the injunctions of the Mosaic law, and submit to the moral law with its promises and penalty was an act of voluntary humiliation.

We are washed from our sin by his blood and clothed in his righteousness. That is why the Redeemer lived here on earth as a man for thirty years before he went to the cross to suffer the penalty of our sins: he assumed and discharged our responsibilities; as a child, as a youth, as a man, he rendered unto God that perfect obedience which we owed him.

He "fulfilled all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15) for his people, and just as he who knew no sin was made sin for them, so they are now made "the righteousness of God in him." 2 Corinthians 5:21.



Members of the logistics flight mount an all out attack during an alarm at the Combat Dining-in Dec. 7. Water guns and balloons were the standard weapons.



The warehouse where the event was held became a temporary war zone during the chaotic activities that evening.

Dining-in

(Continued from Page 1)

of the officers mess. British soldiers brought the custom to the American colonies where Gen. George Washington adopted it.

The Air Force dining-in began with Gen. Henry "Hap" Arnold's "wing-dings" in England in the 1930s.

Although the dining-in is long on tradition, Dec. 7's event wasn't long on order, mayhem ruled the evening. The participants took the affair and raised the rowdiness to the level normally reserved for the WWF.

The different sections of AFFOR divided into their sections and set up bunkers from which to attack other areas.

Rule number 14 of the mess states: "Thou shalt duck under the nearest table when alarm red is sounded and will proceed to fire weapons with no regard." Although the participants were not suppose to fire on other positions during the event unless an alarm red was sounded, it didn't stop them.

The purpose of the rowdy evening was comradery. The night gave the members of AFFOR the opportunity to all get together socially.



Many unauthorized attacks happened during the event. Staff Sgt. Ed Cespedes, pictured above, allegedly launched the first attack on the head table.